Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of the Housing First Program in patients with severe mental disorders in France: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To: Doug Altman, Curt Furberg, Jeremy Grimshaw and Peter Rothwell
   Editors-in-Chief of Trials journal.

Dear Editors,

Please find enclosed a copy of our revised manuscript entitled: “Evaluation of the Housing First Program in patients with severe mental disorders in France: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial.”

We responded point-by-point to the comments and requests of the editor and the reviewer, documenting any changes we made to the original manuscript.

We hope that the new version is deemed worthy of publication in Trials.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor
Please mention each author individually in your Authors? Contributions section. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Authors
The contribution section is now in accordance with the recommendations (Line 412): “AT, CF, VG and PA conceived and designed the study, including the statistical elements and power calculation. The study protocol and manuscript have been drafted by AT, CF, LB and PA. The study protocol and manuscript were critically reviewed by VG, CL, BV, PR, TG, BF, TA and CL. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.”
Reviewer 1

Reviewer’s point 1.
Line 155-157: The authors suggest that they will be using validated methods for assessing health care. It is not immediately clear if they are using interviews or collecting observational data from participants. The corresponding paragraph should be reviewed for clarity.

Authors
We propose immediately indicating in this section that we use observational data, interviews and focus groups. We hope that this change will clarify this section.

Line 154: “The qualitative approach is based on a generalisable study design (i.e., to determine whether the Housing First model evaluated in this study may be transposed to other real-life settings in the French context) [37] using validated methods for assessing health care including observational data from participants, interviews and focus groups [38, 39].”

Reviewer’s point 2.
Line 270: The authors reference the "second group" in discussing the honoraria, but it would be clearer if they called this the control group or something more appropriate.

Authors
In accordance with the reviewer, we replaced “second group” by “control group” line 270.